

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02902 161710Z

62

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSCE-00

NSC-05 L-01 MC-01 SP-02 DRC-01 RSC-01 /042 W

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R 161616Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9836

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

SECDEF WASHDC UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2902

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, DA

SUBJECT: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT: DANISH UNCERTAINTIES

1. WE ARE DISTURBED OVER THE LACK OF PRECISION ON THE PART OF RESPONSIBLE DANISH OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER BRONDUM, ABOUT THE TIMING OF CRITICAL DECISIONS ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER REPLACEMENT. PART OF THIS LACK OF PREVISION IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE RESULT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO TALK ABOUT THE NEED TO SPEND ABOUT \$250 MILLION ON WARPLANES AT A TIME WHEN THE DANISH ECONOMY IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. FURTHERMORE, FEW LEADING POLITICIANS APPEAR AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE AND WHAT IT WILL REQUIRE OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT. AS AN EXAMPLE, HENNING CHRISTOPHERSEN, THE ABLE PARLIAMENTARY POLITICAL SPOKESMAN OF THE GOVERNING LIBERAL PARTY AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, SUGGESTED TO POLCOUNS THAT DENMARK MIGHT DEFER A DECISION ON FIGHTER REPLACEMENT FOR "TWO OR THREE MORE YEARS" BUT STILL PARTICIPATE IN THE BENEFIT FROM THE CONSORTIUMS LARGE BUY AND OFFSETS. POLCOUNS POINTED OUT THE IMPLAUSIBILITY OF SUCH AN

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PAGE 02 COPENH 02902 161710Z

EXPECTATION AND NOTED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN ORDER

TO ACCOMMODATE THE DELIVERY REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM, A PURCHASE DECISION HAS TO BE MADE EARLY IN 1975. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT QUESTIONS OF OFFSET, CO-PRODUCTIO ETC, WERE PROBABLY INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE PURCHASE DECISION.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON WHEN PROCUREMENT DECISIONS MUST BE MADE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM. MUST PARTIAL PAYMENT BE MADE AT THE TIME OF COMMITMENT, AND IF SO HOW MUCH? IS IT FEASIBLE FOR DANES TO ENTERTAIN THE HOPE THAT THEY CAN GAIN THE ADVANTAGES OF A CONSORTIUM PURCHASE AND AT THE SAME TIME DEFER A COMMITMENT FOR "TWO OR THREE YEARS"?  
CROWE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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